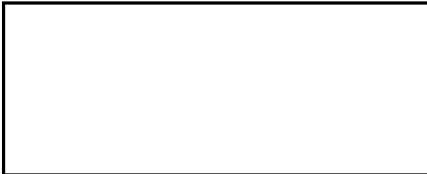
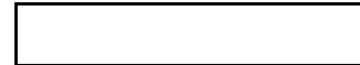


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17 May 1955



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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 35
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒
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CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 9/1/80 REVIEWER: 



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State Dept. review completed

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SUMMARY

FAR EAST

1. Japanese prime minister suggests need for Security Treaty revision (page 3).

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

3. France favors conference of Western big three with Diem (page 5).

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FAR EAST

1. Japanese prime minister suggests need for Security Treaty revision:

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[REDACTED] Prime Minister Hatoyama told the Diet on 13 May he believed revision of the Security Treaty and Administrative Agreement with the United States was necessary to complete Japan's independence.

Foreign Minister Shigemitsu, according to the Japanese press, followed the prime minister with a statement that immediate revision of the pacts was not feasible. He asserted, however, that Japan's obligation to offer military bases to the United States did not bind Tokyo to consent to their being enlarged when requested.

Comment: The recent agreement between Japan and the United States on Japan's defense budget for 1955-56, which dashed Hatoyama's campaign promises of "butter instead of guns," has resulted in renewed charges that the treaty and administrative agreement constitute "undue interference" in Japan's internal affairs. The opposition parties are keeping the issue alive by attacking the government in the Diet with the allegation that American bases in Japan will be used to store nuclear weapons and support military action in the Far East.

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Foreign Minister Shigemitsu told the Diet during defense budget discussions in late April that it was "natural" for various matters between the United States and Japan to need adjustment. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

3. France favors conference of Western big three with Diem:



The French government is prepared to accept Vietnamese premier Diem's invitation to attend a conference in Saigon to which Britain and the United States have

also been invited, according to Premier Faure's personal spokesman.

France would have the three Western powers represented by their regular emissaries in Vietnam. Paris believes that holding a meeting at the ministerial level would cause the regular representatives to lose importance in Vietnamese eyes.

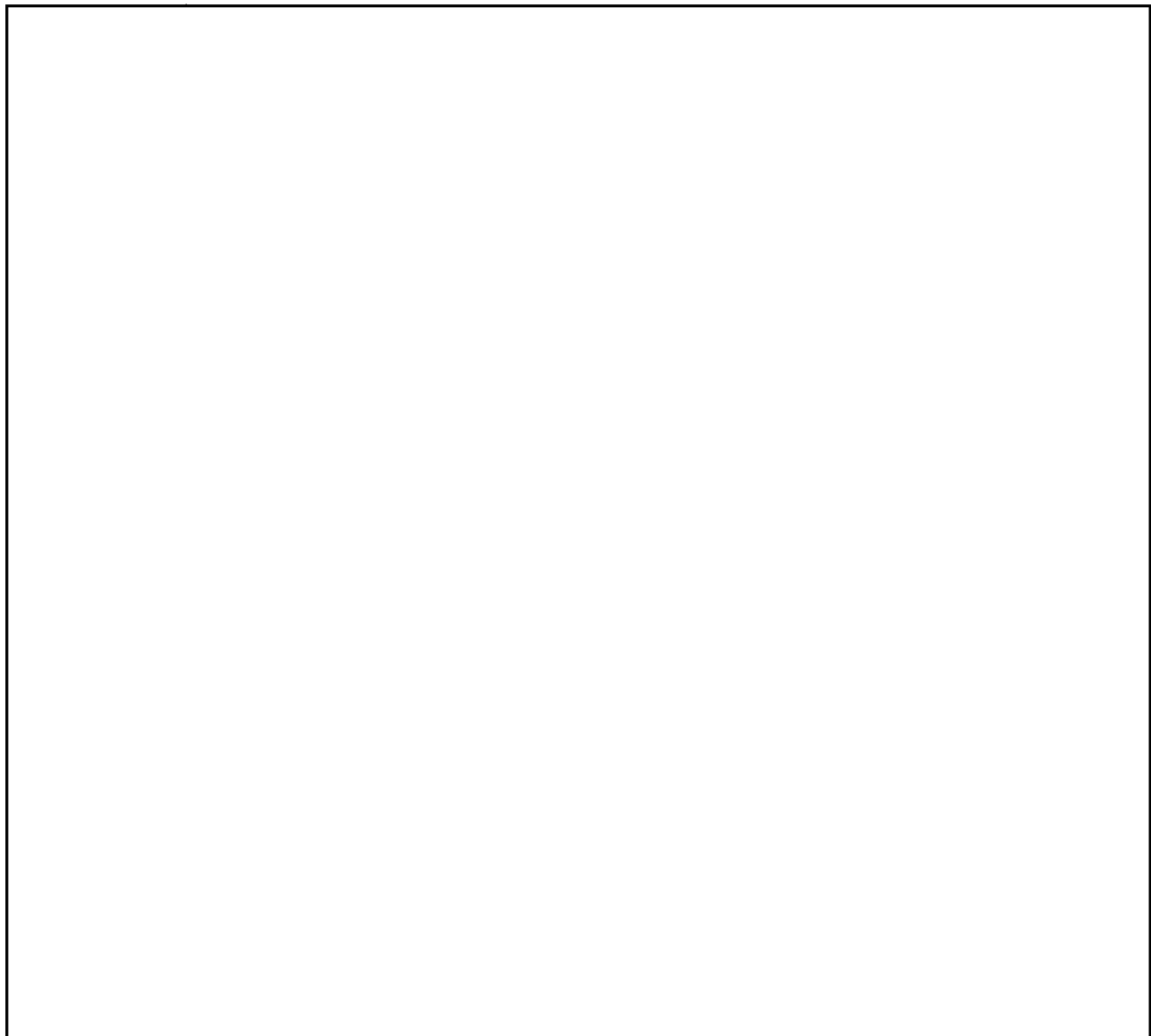
The premier's spokesman said he hoped the task of such a conference would not be complicated beforehand by some incident, such as the deposition of Bao Dai.

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Comment: The French have no desire to become involved in renewed hostilities in Indochina and may plan to emphasize at the proposed conference that the United States and Britain have assumed increased responsibility in Vietnam.

The Vietnamese government recently made public its distaste for high-level conferences on Vietnam to which it had not been invited.



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